

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00

SCI-06 SCEM-02 NEA-10 CIEP-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /137 W
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R 041410Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 0045

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SF, BC, LT, WZ

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN POSITION ON PETROLEUM SUPPLY TO
BOTSWANA, LESOTHO, AND SWAZILAND (BLS)

NOFORN

1. FYI ONLY: SA DEPT. COMMERCE DEPUTY SECRETARY (VAN DER WALT) STATED IN CONFIDENCE TO ECON COUNSELOR THAT SA CURRENTLY SUPPLYING PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO BLS AS REQUIRED. HE SAID THEY APPLYING CONSERVATION MEASURES COMPARABLE TO SA AND REQUIREMENTS DOWN SLIGHTLY OVER PRE-ARAB EMBARGO LEVEL. SAG POLICY, HE SAID, WAS THAT BLS NEEDS WOULD BE MET TO NOT LESS THAN SAME DEGREE REPUBLIC'S NEEDS MET.

2. VAN DER WALT ADDED THAT BLS COUNTRIES HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT IF THEY COULD OBTAIN CRUDE OIL SUPPLIES ON THEIR OWN, SA WOULD PROCESS IN ITS REFINERIES AND FORWARD ALL THE RESULTANT PRODUCT. HE UNDERSTOOD REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNTRIES HAD MADE APPROACHES TO ARABS BUT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT RESULTS MIGHT BE. SA WOULD UNDERSTANDABLY BE PLEASED
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IF THEY COULD GET THEIR FULL REQUIREMENTS OR MORE IN THIS

FASHION.

3. COMMENT: THERE STILL VERY REAL PROSPECT OF RATIONING
MOTOR GASOLINE IN SA AS WELL AS GREATER LIMITATIONS ON OTHER
PRODUCTS. UNDER SAG POLICY STATED, COMPARABLE LIMITATIONS
IN SHARING SUPPLIES WITH BLS COULD BE ANTICIPATED. BLS IN-
DEPENDENT PROCUREMENT WOULD THUS ENABLE THESE STATES CONTINUE
ENJ Y NORMAL SUPPLIES. QUESTION DOES OCCUR HOW SAG WOULD REACT
IF ARAB SUPPLIERS ATTEMPTED SUPPLY ONLY ENOUGH TO SUPPLEMENT
AMOUNTS SA WOULD BE SHARING. AS VAN DER WALT COMMENTED,
MATTER IS DELICATE.
HURD

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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